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**Charities and Corrections.** In the general field of the care and custody of the juvenile wards of the State there are a number of enactments worthy of note in a review of the year's legislation.

In Illinois an act approved May 13 authorizes the establishment and maintenance by the county authorities of a detention home for the temporary care and custody of dependent, delinquent, and truant children. "As nearly as practicable for their safe custody, the inmates thereof shall be cared for as in a family home and public school." The electors of any county may adopt the act by a popular vote, and may similarly abandon the system. Another act (June 4) defines "dependent" and "neglected" children and "delinquents," sets forth the procedure by which such may be declared wards of the State "for the purposes of this act only," and provides that such children may be left at home under probationary guardianship or placed in the more direct institutional care of the State during minority. An extension of the juvenile probation system is provided for by an act (April 19) authorizing for all counties the payment of compensation to probation officers.

Indiana systematizes the public responsibility for the support of dependent and neglected children by an act (1907, c. 41) which defines the terms, declares that "the judge of the juvenile court in any county shall hear every case. . . . concerning a dependent or a neglected child" and may declare such child a public ward, and provides that "no child hereafter shall be supported, in whole or in part, in such institution (i. e., orphan's home or other children's institution), by a county, unless such child shall have been made a public ward by the order of the judge of the juvenile court." This places in the judge of the juvenile court an authority heretofore scattered in the hands of different public officers. Its effect will be watched with interest, in that "many persons believe that the larger proportion of children in this State who are public wards is due to the ease with which children can be turned over for support, thereby "enabling the relatives to escape their natural responsibilities." Willful neglect of parent or guardian leading to such dependence is punishable by fine and possible imprisonment, subject to suspension of sentence.

Important juvenile court acts are noted in Alabama, Michigan, and New Hampshire. The age of consent was raised in Indiana, New Hampshire, and South Dakota. Kansas provides for a special cottage for crippled children at the Soldiers' Orphans Home, while Minnesota passed an act (1907, c. 81) to establish a State hospital for indigent, crippled or deformed children.

A number of States passed laws providing more severe punishment for crimes against children and for contributing to the delinquency of children. In the list are Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Indiana.

Several important measures relate to the State's care of its insane. In Illinois an act of June 4 provides for a districting of the State by the commissioners of public charities for the purpose of regulating the admission of patients. The act looks toward the transfer from the county asylums and almshouses to the State asylums of as many patients as can be accommodated and the gradual acceptance by the State of all responsibility for the care of the insane. Section 11 of the act says: "It is the intent and meaning of this act that when and after the State shall have been divided into districts as herein provided, and sufficient accommodations in State institutions shall have been provided for all the insane of all the counties of the State and certified as set forth in the seventh section of this act, no insane person shall be permitted to remain under county care, but that all the insane who are now or who may hereafter become a public charge shall be transferred to the respective State asylums without unnecessary delay, there to be regarded and known as the wards of the State and to be wholly supported by the State." And no insane person now or hereafter under State care is to be returned to the care of local authority.

North Carolina makes a specific appropriation of a half million dollars for the establishment of a separate colony for the care of all mental defectives. Minnesota (1907, c. 48) provides for detention hospitals at the State hospitals. Increased accommodations for insane are also provided for in Maine, New Hampshire and Wyoming. In Kansas, to quote the secretary of the board of control, "the charitable institutions were given liberal appropriations with which to provide additional room and enable them to care for all of the insane and feeble-minded of the State and do away entirely with the policy of county care."

In New York the establishment of the Eastern Custodial Asylum has been spoken of as perhaps the most important enactment of the session in the field of charity. This institution is designed to care for those incurable cases for which care and oversight represent all that can be done. Many persons can be cared for in such an asylum who are out of place in existing institutions and who occupy attentions which might better be given to those whose cases hold out a hope of cure.

In general the manual occupation of inmates of State institutions should be judged as a part of the corrective or curative work. Michigan

and Minnesota offer enactments striving to solve the difficult problem of harmonizing such occupation with outside industrial conditions. Michigan establishes a binder-twine plant at the State Prison on State account, and the people by a large majority have repealed the constitutional provision forbidding the teaching of a mechanical trade to convicts. Minnesota (1907, c. 49) authorizes the board of control to establish at the State Prison, a factory for the manufacture of rakes, mowers, harvesters and binders. An act similar to that of Michigan in its essentials was passed in Indiana (1907, c. 86) establishing a binder-twine and cordage plant at the State Prison.

Two laws have been placed upon the statute books of Indiana, which have been described as "fairly epoch making." Says the *New Jersey Review* of these two acts: "The people of Indiana have had the courage to enact into statute law principles which only the most advanced penologists and social reformers have dared to advocate." Chapter 215 provides for the sterilization of confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles and rapists, "in cases that have been pronounced unimprovable." The decision is left to a committee of experts made up of the chief physician of the institution and two skilled surgeons of recognized ability together with the board of managers. Chapter 82 makes provision for the life imprisonment of habitual criminals, upon a third conviction for a felony. Section 2 of this act reads: "To authorize a sentence of imprisonment for life under this act, the indictment or affidavit shall allege that the defendant has been previously twice convicted, sentenced and imprisoned in some penal institution for felonies, describing each separately. If the trial jury in their verdict find these facts to be true and convict such defendant of the third felony, the trial court after passing sentence of imprisonment for a specific term as prescribed by the statute, shall proceed to sentence the defendant to imprisonment for his or her life."

Minnesota (1907, c. 441) has established a State board of visitors for public institutions, to consist of six members with the governor ex officio. Regular meetings shall be held, and the board "shall study the whole subject of the care and management of charitable and correctional institutions." The board or a committee of its members may be directed by the governor, at any time in his discretion, to investigate any penal or charitable institutions in the State, and for such purposes they may summon witnesses and demand books and papers.

Indiana (1907, c. 98) provides for a uniform system of control and management of State institutions. Boards of trustees are made each to

consist of four members, no more than two from any party. Section 6 of this act contains several noteworthy provisions. After providing for the appointment by the boards of the chief administrative officers, the act goes on to say: "All other officers and employees of each institution named herein shall be appointed regardless of political or religious affiliation on the basis of fitness, after examination as to their qualifications for the duties to be performed under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the board of the institution." It is also made a misdemeanor "for any person to solicit or receive from any officer or employee of said institutions any money for campaign assessments, or for any officer or employee of said institutions to pay any such assessment to any person or organization or political party.

New York (1907, c. 430) has established a State probation commission of seven members. The work of the commission is largely supervisory and is expected to extend the operation of the probation system. Other enactments establishing or extending the system of probation and parole have been noted in Kansas, Missouri and Wyoming.

Statutes aimed against family desertion have been enacted in Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire and Indiana. The latter act (1907, c. 49) has received some criticism on account of a proviso "except for the cause of adultery or other vicious or immoral conduct," which is declared to involve danger in the trying out of divorce proceedings in the criminal trial.

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**Child Labor.** At no time in the history of the country has the interest in the subject of child labor been greater than at the present. The labor union and statesman, as well as the philanthropist agree that reforms are needed.

Since January, 1907, sixteen States have passed laws in the interest of children, to protect them from excessive toil and to give them the rudiments of education. Few States have ideal laws, but in some the condition of the child is deplorable, and these States are taking steps to ameliorate the condition of the children. Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont and Wyoming have passed laws in the interest of children this year.

In this legislation, the age limit varies from twelve in Florida, where the law provides for an age limit of twelve years for employment in any